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Loudoun Literacy Council Expands its Services to Include Acclaimed Health Literacy Program

Leesburg, VA, February 12, 2019 – Loudoun Literacy Council, the longest-running non-denominational provider of adult and family literacy services in Loudoun County, is teaming-up with Williamsburg-based Literacy for Life to bring the award-winning HEAL Program® to the county. The Literacy for Life HEAL Program® addresses the problem of low health literacy, which is pervasive and can result in life-threatening complications for patients. The long-term goal of the program is for Loudoun County participants, predominantly English language learners, to access medical services with increased knowledge and confidence and take charge of their overall health and the health of their families.

Two Loudoun Literacy Council instructors have trained for the HEAL Program®, and classes will launch in April and run through 2020. The program addresses the problem of low health literacy by teaching patients about healthcare and the terminology related to it in order to empower them to take control of their own health.

“We are truly appreciative for the opportunity to partner with Literacy for Life and address the important issue of health literacy,” said Nikki Daruwala, Executive Director, Loudoun Literacy Council. The HEAL Program® in Loudoun County is funded by the Coverys Community Healthcare Foundation. Development of the HEAL Program® has been generously supported by the Williamsburg Health Foundation and the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Foundation. It has served more than 1,000 people since inception in 2012.

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Loudoun Literacy Council has been providing literacy services in Loudoun County, Virginia, since 1980. Literacy for Life has empowered adults in the Greater Williamsburg area of Virginia to build success in their daily lives for more than 40 years. Both organizations provide life-changing literacy instruction for adults, including basic literacy, fundamental math skills, English language, job skills and credentialing preparation, financial literacy, and health literacy. Adults who never learned to read or never completed high school can further their education and greatly improve their job prospects. Learners for whom English is a second language not only will learn to speak and understand English, they also will gain the skills needed to successfully navigate their community and the health literacy skills necessary to better access medical services.

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